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**Message from the President**

*David Cox, NMLA President, [president@nmla.org](mailto:president@nmla.org)*

Hello Librarians!

How are you? How are you doing  
"Embracing the Ambiguity?"

I have been embracing the Ambiguity by working online, stopping into the Skeen Library at New Mexico Tech as necessary, interacting with staff, vendors, and the NMT community as needed, and seeking to keep the online Library holdings and information up for students, faculty, and others.



How are you doing Embracing the Ambiguity? The uncertainty of when things might change, be opened, addressing staff and collection safety in considering how to open the doors to the portal of information held by Tribal, School, Public, Academic and Special Libraries?

Even though we don't know when the doors will be opened, we are all open as Libraries with our websites and social media. We are open for questions. We are open to help, to create discussion groups, to assist our communities in need. We remain the repository of memory, of information, of ideas. Because even when the doors are closed, the library is open.

I am uncertain when we will ever come back to a sense of "normal" library functions. I simply know we will. We may need to have clear social distancing for staff and patrons, face masks, and wear gloves. We will do as much as we can to bring information, literacy, and encourage lifelong learning. This is a central part of our purpose as libraries and librarians.

Yet, I ask again- how are you doing with the Ambiguity? I hope that in all you do, you prepare to help today, and tomorrow, and into the future. Some folks are repairing things that are more easily done without patrons being present. Some are weeding the collection. Some are looking to online resources for Storytime or help with job applications. Some are reviewing the processes to interacting with the community with the lessons learned in this COVID-19 pandemic. Some will interact with other librarians at the ALA Virtual Event, <https://2020.alavirtualevent.org/>, with its low fee of \$ 60.00.

Whatever it is- as you embrace the Ambiguity - I hope you are well, and I hope for good things to be available now and in the future of your library community.

**Special points of interest:**

- NM libraries and museums collecting and documenting life during the pandemic
- NMLA scholarships
- Library services and projects while buildings are closed

## NMLA Annual Conference 2020

*Submitted by Melanie Templet, NMLA Vice President, [vicepresident@nmla.org](mailto:vicepresident@nmla.org)*

Do you have a vision for the future of libraries, especially with this new world we are living in? Consider submitting a proposal to the 2020 NMLA Annual Conference! The deadline has been extended to July 1, 2020, so submit today by filling out the [2020 NMLA Annual Conference Program Proposal Form!](#) The board will be meeting on June 2 to discuss the best way to proceed with our 2020 annual conference. So, stay tuned! Please see the [2020 NMLA Annual Conference](#) Website for more information.



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## Land of Enchantment Book Award

*By Terri Gaussoin, Chair and Serenity O'Brien, Co-Chair, LOE Book Award, [loebookaward@gmail.com](mailto:loebookaward@gmail.com)*

The Land of Enchantment Book Award Committee continues to actively read and evaluate books for consideration for the 2021-22 nominee list. In light of school and public library closures, the committee has decided to postpone voting for the 2020 award. Instead of voting in April and May, readers will be invited to vote for their favorite books on the reading lists during summer and into the fall. The window for librarians and others serving our readers to submit votes will open on July 15 and will remain open until mid-September. This will allow public librarians to include voting as part of their summer reading programs, and will allow school librarians to share the books and collect votes once school starts again in the fall. Thank you for your continued support of our state children's book award.

## Fray Angélico Chavez Library Collecting Quarantine Diaries

Submitted by Kathleen Dull, Fray Angélico Chávez History Library, [HistoryLibrary@state.nm.us](mailto:HistoryLibrary@state.nm.us)

The Fray Angélico Chávez Library at the New Mexico History Museum is collecting Quarantine Diaries. We would like to include your accounts as well as those of your patrons, friends, or families.

Help write history by adding your story to the Fray Angélico Chávez Library Quarantine Diaries Collection. The Quarantine Diaries Collection seeks to assemble the accounts of New Mexicans from around the state during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope it will be a way to capture primary accounts at the time of the event, when the experience is the most vivid.

The collection focuses on written accounts, and is open to any and all types of entries, whether informational or emotional. Email [historylibrary@state.nm.us](mailto:historylibrary@state.nm.us) to fill out the release and with any questions or for more information.

If you would like to share this on social media with your patrons, graphics are on the Library's FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/ChavezLibrary/photos/pb.177618808300.-2207520000..10157830656278301/?type=3&theater>



## UNM Health Sciences Library Launches Digital Repository Space on COVID19

Submitted by Jonathan Pringle, Scholarly Communications and Digital Librarian, UNM Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, [jpringle@salud.unm.edu](mailto:jpringle@salud.unm.edu)

The Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) at the University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Center (HSC) is excited to launch its [Digital Repository space focused on HSC and New Mexico's response to COVID-19](#). Librarians are collaborating with both academic and administrative units at HSC to populate content that highlights the institutional and research response, while complementary Community Gallery and Reflections pages are available for original submissions of content focused on health and wellness in New Mexico. Please visit our site to learn more about how you can become part of the historic record.



## NMSU Collecting Pandemic Documentation

By Dylan McDonald, Political Papers Archivist/Special Collections Librarian, NMSU,  
[dylanmcd@nmsu.edu](mailto:dylanmcd@nmsu.edu)

In hopes of documenting the effects brought by COVID-19 to New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, and New Mexico, the Archives and Special Collections (ASC) staff is reaching out to the campus community and public to collect and record their response to this crisis. Contributors can follow the prompts found at [openstacks.nmsu.edu/covid19](https://openstacks.nmsu.edu/covid19) to submit their experiences online.

ASC is collecting documentation of how the pandemic has affected New Mexicans. Future scholars, historians, scientists, health experts, and students will want to understand how society reacted to and experienced the COVID-19 pandemic.

To document life as experienced in 2020, contributors might consider:

- Writing a journal/diary or letter
- Recording voice memos and interviews
- Capturing social media posts and emails
- Snapping photos/videos
- Creating art or multimedia works of digital storytelling
- Sharing records from their business showing how it responded to the crisis (graphics, correspondence, business announcements, etc.)

You need not limit yourself to one submission – feel free to contribute over the coming months as the effects of this pandemic continue to impact the NMSU community. Upon completion of cataloging, submitted material will be made available via the library's [digital collection](#).

### Kudos Corner

*Submitted by Melveeta Walker, ENMU*

Please congratulate Debbie Lang on being promoted to Public Service Librarian, Special Collections. Debbie has worked 17 years in Golden Library, 4 as a student cataloger and 13 as a fulltime staff employee in Special Collections. She receives her MLIS this week from the University of North Texas. Debbie replaces Gene Bundy who retired on May 1.

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## National Hispanic Cultural Center

*By Cassandra E. Osterloh, Librarian, NHCC*

The move from being in our building and receiving patrons and visitors to shutting our doors to everyone, created for the NHCC History and Literary Arts staff a time to assess our online reach and capabilities. The History and Literary Arts Program (HLA) houses a library, archives, and special collections, features two to four exhibits a year, and presents a wide range of history and literary arts programs serving children, youth, adults, elders and families, all of which are in-person activities and events. Like most, we had to cancel all events from mid-March through the end of June. We were saddened to cancel some of our exciting events, such as our Annual Children's Bilingual Book Festival, monthly La Canoa Legacy talks, and more. After our initial shock and grieving period, we set out to do all that we could to take HLA-type programs online. Here are a few of the things we have done in the past seven weeks.

I created a Latinx Book Review blog - <https://www.nhcclatinxbookreview.com/>. Currently, reviews are done by HLA staff, HLA volunteers, and NHCC Book Club members. I have also put forth to NM Arts staff, REFORMA members, and other librarians, the opportunity to review books by Latinx authors. We have a small collection of reviews thus far, but we are growing and gaining regional and national attention. If you wish to submit an original, personal review, you can do so at: <https://forms.gle/bGhFaoe29n1yGGEv8>.

I put our current exhibit "El Voto Femenino: sufragistas Latinas luchando por el derecho al voto" online (available on the HLA webpage: <http://www.nhccnm.org/learn/nhcc-library-archive/> OR at <https://prezi.com/view/ewkVzf4OIERhJ4M6M4YS/>). Celebrating the U.S. centennial of the Women's Vote, this exhibit features Latinas from the international Hispanic diaspora who were instrumental in women's suffrage worldwide. It doesn't have every component of the exhibit, but I tried to make it so that the online exhibit was not just a PowerPoint feel – going from one to another. I am working on creating an interactive activity guide next, although there is a PDF activity guide available currently.

We (HLA Staff) also created a podcast, something none of us had ever done before. Our podcast "La Hilacha: Words and Memories" (<https://lahilacha1.podbean.com/>) has been a fun experiment that seems to have been well received. We have completed and published four episodes since the beginning of April with over 300 downloads to date. The episodes include La Hilacha (an intor), Poetry in a Time of Crisis, The 1918 Pandemic: What Does History Teach Us, and our most recent episode, Healing Ourselves: Ancestral Traditions.

This has been a different time, not being able to see our patrons and visitors or interact with our co-workers, but we've tried to make the best of it by creating, what we hope, are fun and engaging online options.

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## NMLA Scholarships

*Submitted by Glenn Koelling, NMLA Education Committee Chair, [education@nmla.org](mailto:education@nmla.org)*

The NMLA Scholarship cycle for this year is open! The Marion Dorroh Memorial Scholarship provides scholarship awards to students enrolled in advanced degree programs in library and information science at ALA-accredited colleges and universities. This scholarship is available to both full-time and part-time students. Applications are due May 31, 2020.

The College Scholarship Fund supports New Mexico library workers who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in library technology or school library certification. It can also be used for graduate study toward a teacher-librarian endorsement. Applications will be accepted starting July 1, 2020.

Applicants need not be members of NMLA. For more information see, <https://nmla.wildapricot.org/Scholarships-Grants>

## DCA Educates

By Cassandra E. Osterloh, Librarian, National Hispanic Cultural Center

The New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) rolled out a new initiative mid-April – **DCA Educates!** The initiative was marketed to teachers around the state. Since schools across New Mexico had to transition, **DCA Educates!** gives teachers an opportunity to supplement lesson plans by inviting an educator from one of the divisions of DCA into their virtual classrooms.

Students can learn about traditional sheep herding; uncover what an archaeologist does; learn how women won the right to vote in Spanish-speaking countries; explore the diversity of southwest pottery, textiles, paintings, and jewelry; discover the history of airships and build your own blimp; and so much more! These and a variety of additional topics and programs are available for virtual instruction by a staff educator of the DCA, which includes eight museums, seven historic sites, a cultural center, New Mexico Arts, the Office of Archeological Studies, the Historic Preservation Division, and the New Mexico State Library.

As of May 7, 36 requests have come in from around the state and for all age groups (pre-k through high school). DCA educators are sent the request from the teacher as it comes in, and the educator and school-teacher then coordinate the programming together. With the school year ending for many New Mexico schools, **DCA Educates!** will be available for the summer to public libraries (as well as year-round schools). If your library would like to invite a DCA educator for a summer reading program, or other type of program, you are invited to fill out an “Invite a DCA Educator” form online found on the department’s website at [www.newmexicoculture.org](http://www.newmexicoculture.org). The form also includes a link to the list of available programming from DCA divisions. And, keep in mind that these are virtual visits, so your DCA educator could come from any division no

matter how far (or close) to your physical building they may be!

“If we can’t have classes visit our amazing museums, libraries, and historic sites, then we want to go to them, and our new request form should make it easy to connect with teachers and students,” said State Librarian Eli Guinnee.

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## School Librarians are Embracing Continuous Learning

By Mary Chappell

Spring 2020 brought about unprecedented changes to the state of New Mexico, its schools and its libraries. The global spread of Covid-19 and school closures for the remainder of the year created unexpected challenges for families and students everywhere. New Mexico's school librarians, however, have embraced this challenge. Putting it simply, our school librarians have gone above and beyond to make sure that our students, teachers, and school communities continue to receive both academic and social-emotional support.

When schools closed, school librarians recognized that it would be several weeks before teachers were ready to deliver instruction, and that they would need help. Immediately, we began to formulate plans. Our NM Librarians group held a series of virtual meetings. Out of those meetings, we identified several ways that librarians urgently needed help in order to support students and teachers.

In less than a week, we set up an online community. We filled it with resources we needed, and began holding daily professional development workshops. Over 100 NM school librarians have joined that online community. We use it to collaborate, coordinate, and support each other and our school communities. The most exciting news is that we have been joined by school librarians from all corners of the state!

Since the beginning of April, we have held daily professional development meetings. New Mexico school librarians who have expertise in those topics host each session. Ideas for the topics come from chats during open office hours, during which librarians stop by to talk about what they need. We are using what we learn to engage and support our students, and to offer technical support to our teachers.

Topics have included:

- YouTube Closed Channels for Read Alouds
- Using the State Library's EI Portal databases
- Creating Hyperdocs to Support Learning

- Copyright Compliance During COVID-19
- Social-Emotional Learning (using books and teacher ideas to promote mental fitness)
- Using FlipGrid to Engage Students
- Using Social Media to Reach Our Stakeholders
- Importance of Equity /CLR, w/ intro by APS Associate Supt. Serna Marmol
- iMovie Tutorials
- iMovie for iPads
- Digital Citizenship
- Twitter Chats - What they are and how to participate in them!

In short, this crisis has yielded unexpected opportunities for school librarians to demonstrate their expertise in technology and resource acquisition. We have adapted to the virtual environment, and have supported our teachers with their heroic efforts to adapt, as well. We are reaching our students in innovative ways, ever mindful of students' access to technology, social-emotional needs, and cultural and linguistic diversity. Here are just a few of the things we are doing:

- Virtual bedtime stories
  - Daily videos promoting authentic literacy activities
  - Virtual field trips
  - Virtual read alouds
  - FlipGrid lessons - What's in your neighborhood
  - Mystery readers
  - Virtual book clubs
- (and many more)

We are excited about what is happening across the state as a result of the work school librarians are doing and have begun sharing those efforts via Twitter using the hashtag #NMSchoolLibrarians. School Librarians across the state are helping to transform learning during this crisis into something that deserves to be celebrated!

## Library Themed Bingo at ABC Public Library

By Anna Frantz

Librarians at The Public Library Albuquerque and Bernalillo County have made a library-themed bingo card to encourage having fun while continuing to practice social distancing: <https://abqlibrary.org/kidsathome/librarybingo>. Children and adults alike can participate. Our bingo encourages far more than just reading; there are challenges to learn something new with one of the library's databases, explore an online exhibit of one of New Mexico's fantastic museums, and to remotely connect with friends and family. We hope you enjoy the game and continue to stay safe!



Engage your brain with our fun bingo card while continuing to quarantine to help keep Albuquerque safe. To play, complete the squares in either a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line. You can even go for a blackout!

Read a book less than 150 pages	Read a book published within the last year	Connect with family/friends by phone or video chat	Download free music from Freegal Music	If you haven't already, fill out 2020 Census
Read a book set in New Mexico	Work on a puzzle	Write a poem or short story	Read a classic	Read a book recommended by a celebrity
Visit a NM museum or National Park online	Check out a magazine on RBDigital	Free ★ Space	Try learning a new language with Pronunciator	Write a letter to a friend or family member
Read a book published more than 10 years ago	Reread a favorite book from childhood	Play a card or board game	Support a local restaurant or shop	Take a walk or hike
Try a new hobby	Learn something new with Lynda.com	Read a book from your "to-be-read" list	Read a comic book or manga	Read an award-winning book



## Vista Grande Public Library to Reopen

By Julie Kelso, Director, Vista Grande Public Library

Vista Grande Public Library in Eldorado (just outside Santa Fe) plans to open for curbside service as of 5/19. This will include limited computer and printer access. We're currently getting our staff and volunteers prepped for the new business model. We're preparing take home kits for Summer Reading and have signed on for online sign-up through the State Library. We've also added e-books to our collection through the New Mexico-to-Go Consortium to help us serve the widest swathe of our community.

## St. John's Conducts Survey to Understand Public Attitude

By Nicolás Cabrera

The Division of Library and Information Science at St. John's University is conducting a survey that seeks to understand the public attitude about information during this public health emergency. The aim is to distribute the survey broadly to a wide group of people in the U.S. regardless of age, background, or geographical location. Please consider taking a few minutes to participate.

Link to survey: <http://sjudlis.com/covid19survey/>

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## NMLA NEWSLETTER

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### New Mexico Library Association

**Send “Newsletter” submissions, advertisements, and other requests to:**

Newsletter Editor c/o NMLA  
P.O. Box 26074  
Albuquerque, NM 87125

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### Calendar

NMLA Scholarship Applications due May 31, 2020

Proposals for NMLA Annual Conference due July 1, 2020